

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IOE-00 CPR-01 EUR-12 /082 W

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P R 071740Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4378

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG PDIP UN PLO

SUBJECT: PLO OFFICE IN GENEVA

1. SUMMARY: IN A NOTE VERBALE DATED JUNE 27, 1975, SWISS MISSION INFORMED PLO REP GENEVA THAT GOS PREPARED, UPON REQUEST, PERMIT OPENING PERMANENT OFFICE HERE WITH CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS. NO PLO RESPONSE YET FORTHCOMING AND UN OFFICE HERE UNOFFICIALLY PREDICTS PLO MAY TURN DOWN OFFER, BUT LOCAL PLO REPS' REPORTED DEPARTURE FOR BEIRUT LEADS MISSION BELIEVE PLO MAY ACCEPT EVEN LIMITED OFFER BECAUSE OF POLITICAL MILAGE TO BE GAINED BY HAVING OFFICIAL PRESENCE HERE.

2. LOCAL PLO REP DAOUD BARAKAT, LONG-TIME PRESS ATTACHE AT YEMEN MISSION AND NOW RECENTLY ATTACHED TO ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE, WAS GIVEN A GOS NOTE VERBALE JUNE 27 AUTHORIZING PLO TO OPEN OFFICE GENEVA REPORTEDLY WITH "SOMETHING LESS" THAN FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS.

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3. THOUGH MISSION HAS NOT SEEN TEXT GOS NOTE, WELL-PLACED UN SECRETARIAT SOURCE INFORMS US IT JUSTIFIES SWISS DECISION AS BEING "IN KEEPING WITH SPIRIT OF UNGA RESOLUTION" AND "IN KEEPING WITH ADMONITION THAT PLO OFFICE, BEING SUBJECT TO SWISS LAW AND REGULATION, SHOULD REFRAN FROM ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES INCONSISTENT WITH ITS STATUS AS OBSERVER BUREAU. GOS FURTHER STATES IN ITS NOTE THAT ITS PERMISSION TO OPEN OFFICE SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AFFECTING THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF PLO OR THE SWISS GOVERNMENT.

4. UN SECRETARIAT SOURCE STATES THAT SINCE BARAKAT HAS BEEN RECENTLY PRESSING HARD TO HAVE "DIPLOMATIC STATUS" HIS RESIDENCE, HE MAY NOT ACCEPT GOS OFFER WHICH DOES NOT OFFER THE PROTECTION AND INVIOABILITY THAT GOES WITH DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

5. HOWEVER, BARAKAT'S REPORTED RECENT DEPARTURE FOR BEIRUT LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL ADVANTAGES OF OPENING PLO OFFICE MAY LEAD PLO DIRECTORATE TO ACCEPT OFFER, WHICH, AFTER ALL, APPEARS TO GRANT MOST DIPLOMATIC PERQUISITES (E.G. CD LICENSE PLATES, DIPLOMATIC POUCH AND DUTY FREE ENTRY) AND DRAWS THE LINE ONLY AT LEGAL STATUS MISSION AND PLO REP'S RESIDENCE. DALE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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